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wherein said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path at a time of transaction of electronic money according to a control signal from said control circuit in said second terminal device.

REMARKS

Claims 23, 36 and 37 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 23-40 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Jones. Claims 23-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Shiobara and Benton. These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claim 23, as amended, now recites that the terminal device used in an electronic money system according to the present invention includes a switching circuit which switches between a first path and a second path. The first path connects a first external device and the communication circuit without connecting the first external device and the data processor. The second path connects the data processor and

the communication circuit for transferring electronic money data without connecting the first external device and the data processor. According to the present invention, the first external device is never connected to the data processor or the IC card, as consistently shown in the figures and described in the specification. The two paths are illustratively shown in a marked-up version of Figure 1 attached as Appendix A.

None of the cited references disclose this feature of the present invention. The Examiner relies upon Shiobara et al for disclosing switching between a first path and a second path. However, Shiobara et al disclose that throughout all transactions, the built-in IC card is always connected, as illustrated in Appendix B. On the other hand, according to the present invention, the external device and the data processor which processes data in the IC card are never connected. The three switching paths taught by Shiobara et al are illustrated in Appendix B.

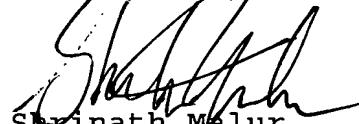
Therefore, the advantages realized by the present invention cannot be realized in the prior art. One advantage is that any personal computer, etc., (corresponding to the first external device) can communicate with the host apparatus even if the personal computer does not have a modem via the

first path. Secondly, the two path system of the present invention separates communication such that the communication of electronic money data is separated from general communication by the personal computer. This improves security and protects private information from falsification, wire tapping, etc. In other words, tampering with the electronic money data is avoided and the handling of electronic money data is unaffected by a failure of the personal computer.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS

23. (Amended) A terminal device used in an electronic money system, comprising:

a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information;

a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line;

a switching circuit which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path [outputting data input from] connecting a first external device [to] and said communication circuit without connecting said first external device and said data processor, and said second path [outputting electronic money data from] connecting said data processor [to] and said communication circuit for transferring electronic money data without connecting said first external device and said data processor; and

a control circuit which controls said data processor, said communication circuit, and said switching circuit;

wherein, said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said

second path at a time of transaction of electronic money information[, and

wherein said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from the first path to the second path, said first external device is prevented from outputting data to said communication circuit].

36. (Amended) A terminal device used in an electronic money system, comprising:

a first terminal device including an input device which enters data from a first external device, a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line, and a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a second terminal device including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information, a light emitting device which generates light signals for sending to said first terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor and said communication circuit; and

a switching circuit in said first terminal device, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path [outputting data input from] connecting said

first external device [to] and said communication circuit
without connecting said first external device and said data
processor, and said second path [outputting electronic money
data from] connecting said data processor of said second
terminal device [input] through said light emitting device and
said light receiving device, [to] and said communication
circuit, for transferring electronic money data, without
connecting said first external device and said data processor;

wherein said control circuit in said second
terminal device controls said switching circuit to switch from
said first path to said second path at a time of transaction
of electronic money[, and]

wherein said control circuit in said second
terminal device controls said switching circuit to switch from
the first path to the second path, said first external device
is prevented from outputting data to said communication
circuit].

37. (Amended) A first terminal device used in an
electronic money system having a second terminal device
including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card
storing electronic money information, a light emitting device
which generates light signals for sending to said first

terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor, said first terminal device comprising:

an input device which enters data from a first external device;

a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line;

a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a switching circuit, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path [outputting data input from] connecting a first external device [to] and said communication circuit without connecting said first external device and said data processor, and said second path [outputting electronic money data from] connecting said data processor of said second terminal device [input] through said light emitting device and said light receiving device [to] and said communication circuit, for transferring electronic money data, without connecting said first external device and said data processor;

wherein said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path at a time of transaction of electronic money according to a control signal from said control circuit in said second terminal device[, and]

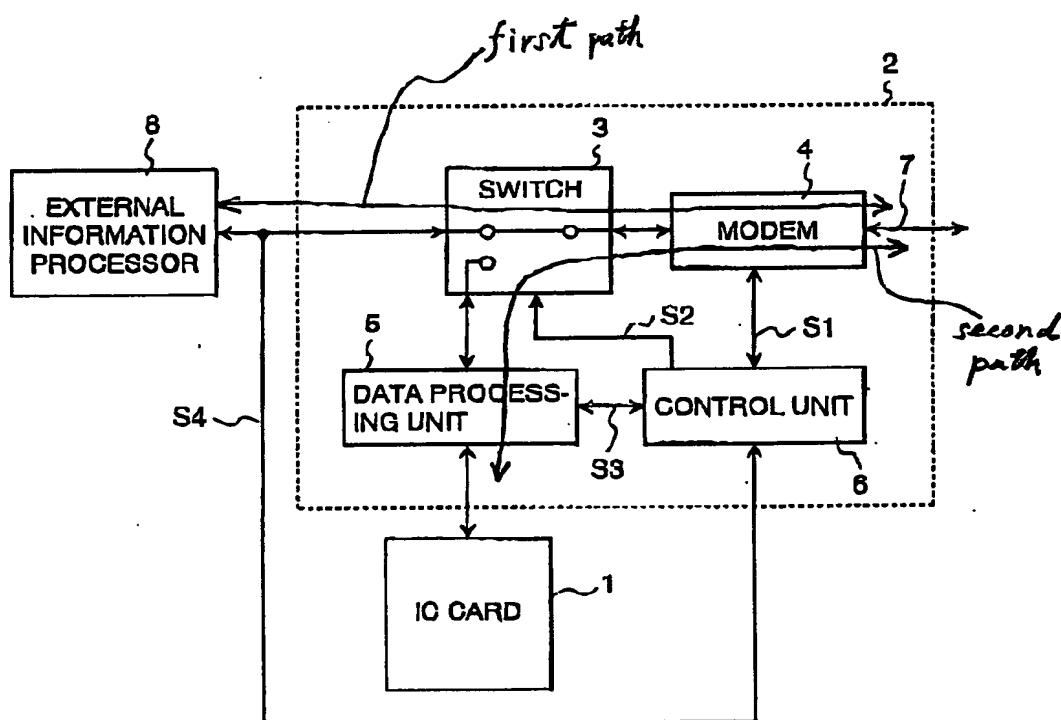
wherein when said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path, said first external device is prevented from outputting data to said communication circuit].



APPENDIX A

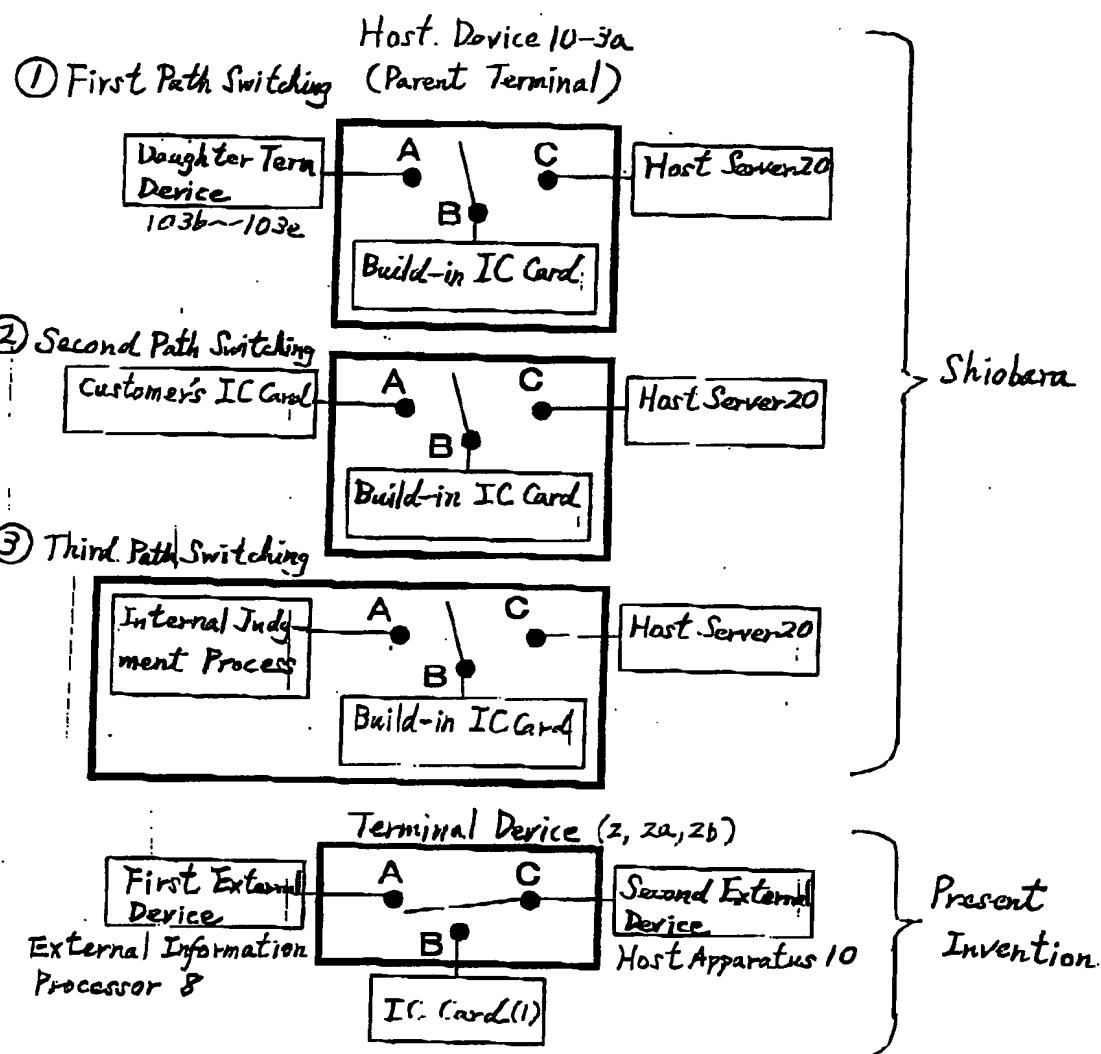
1/18

FIG. 1



DR1 An Illustration of "first path" and
"second path"

APPENDIX B



DR 2 Distinctive Features Over Shiobara